

Message Text

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12

ACTION MED-03

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P 070631Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5917

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3753

DG/MED FOR TED STEIN FROM AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, SN

SUBJ: SACAC ADMINISTRATOR

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SINGAPORE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL HAS FORMALLY OFFERED YOU THE POSITION OF SACAC ADMINISTRATOR AND SENT YOU A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING CONFIRMING THE TERMS WHICH YOU AND THE COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THE SACAC OFFER AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO SINGAPORE. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THE EMBASSY AND I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SACAC'S WORK AND ARE PLEASED TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE TO CONTINUE THIS EFFORT. YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT I WILL EXTEND ALL APPROPRIATE SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

2. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE FINE WORK BY SACAC DURING ITS FIRST THREE YEARS IN WORKING WITH OUR AMERICAN YOUTH AND IN FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT. YET, DESPITE ALL THESE EFFORTS, THE DRUG PROBLEM CONTINUES. I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN YOUTHS WERE ARRESTED AND ELEVEN WERE CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. I BELIEVE THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE HAD SACAC NOT EXISTED.

3. SCHOOL OPENS ON AUGUST 30 AND WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS MANY AMERICAN FAMILIES AND THEIR TEENAGERS WILL BE EITHER RETURNING TO SINGAPORE OR TAKING UP RESIDENCE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS WILL BE CRUCIAL FOR BOTH

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SACAC AND THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN CONSIDERING AND PREPARING

PROGRAMS WHICH WILL SERVE TO PREVENT OR AT LEAST MINIMIZE
THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN THE COMING YEAR. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE
IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARRIVE IN SINGAPORE AT THE EARLIEST
POSSIBLE DATE, PREFERABLY AS NEAR TO THE OPENING OF SCHOOL AS
POSSIBLE. SACAC HAS ASSURED ME THAT YOUR CONTRACT WILL BEGIN
THE DAY OF YOUR ARRIVAL. I KNOW THAT YOU PROBABLY HAVE BOTH
PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL MATTERS TO WIND UP IN WASHINGTON AND THAT
IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ARRIVE BEFORE THE OPENING OF
THE SCHOOL YEAR. HOWEVER, THE SOONER YOU CAN ARRIVE AND
FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE NATURE OF
THE PROBLEM, THE SOONER SACAC WILL BE ABLE TO GET AN EARLY
JUMP AT MEETING THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM CONFRONTING US. HOLDRIDGE

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